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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 EA-11 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

/174 W
---------- 063504
R 241051Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7980
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3868

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO CEASE FIRE

SUMMARY: FONMIN UNDERSEC RASHID CONFIRMED THAT GENERAL KUWAITI REACTION TO CEASE FIRE WAS FEELING ARABS HAD BEEN SOMEHOW CHEATED OF FULL SUCCESS. THERE IS ALSO FEELING US USING ISRAEL TO HUMILIATE ARABS. GOK HAS ADOPTED "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE RE ME CONFLICT, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO USE ALL ITS CAPABILITIES IN SERVICE OF ARAB CAUSE, INCLUDING OIL EMBARGO AND POSSIBLY OTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. HOWEVER, RASHID INDICATED GOK HAD NO RPT NO INTENTIONS BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US. END CONFIDENTIAL

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SUMMARY.

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1. IN CALL ON FONMINISTRY UNDERSEC RASHID OCT 23 I ASKED HIM HOW KUWAITIS REACTING TO CEASE FIRE ANNOUNCEMENT. I SAID APPEARED TO ME POPULACE IN GENERAL CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AT RAPIDITY OF CEASE FIRE AND, IN PROFESSING TO BELIEVE ARABS ACQUITTING THEMSELVES ADMIRABLY AND AT MINIMUM HOLDING THEIR OWN ON FIELD OF BATTLE, CONSIDER EGYPTIANS LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS BEFORE WAR AIMS ACHIEVED. IN SHORT THERE WAS FEELING ARABS CHEATED BY TIMING OF CEASE FIRE.

2. RASHID SAID HIS READING WAS SAME. IN THEIR PRESENT HIGHLY EMOTIONAL STATE, HE SAID, SOME PEOPLE TELLING THEMSELVES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT US ADVISED ISRAELIS CROSS SUEZ CANAL AND HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH FOR CEASE FIRE TO BE ARRANGED. THIS MANEUVER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION LATER. RASHID REFERRED TO ANOTHER WIDESPREAD FEELING ARABS SHOULD HAVE GONE ON FIGHTING NO MATTER HAW BADLY THEY MIGHT LOSE. ECHOING LINE MINFINANCE AND OIL TOOK WITH ME SEVERAL DAYS AGO, RASHID SAID THERE ALSO BITTER FEELING THAT US USING ISRAEL TO HUMILIATE ARABS. SINCE IT SEEMED CONSIDER RELATION WITH ARAB WORLD OF NO CONSEQUENCE, WHY DID NOT US GRAB WHAT IT WANTED FROM ARABS WITH ITS OWN FORCES? HISTORY BOOKS WOULD READ MUCH BETTER FROM VIEW-POINT OF ARABS IF US AS GREAT POWER HAD SUBDUED THEM DIRECTLY RATHER THAN ENGINEERING THEIR DEFEAT TIME AFTER TIME BY THEIR BITTEREST ENEMY.

3. RASHID INDICATED OFFICIAL GOK ATTITUDE WAS BASICALLY ONE OF WAIT AND SEE. EMBARGO ON OIL TO US, AND POSSIBLY OTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO COME, WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE PENDING PROGRESS ON RECOVERY OF ARAB LANDS AND FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS. RASHID WANTED TO EMPHASIZE POINT THAT ARAB "MODERATES" WERE NOT MODERATE ON SUBJECT OF ARAB AIMS; RATHER THEY TRYING TAKE RATIONAL, LONG-RANGE VIEW OF THEIR CAPABILITIES AND WEAPONS THEY REALIXTICALLY COULD USE IN SERVICE OF ARAB CAUSE. THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT, HE SAID, THAT MODERATES PREPARED TO MAKE ALL SACRIFICES NECESSARY TOWARD THAT END.

4. RASHID PARRIED MY QUESTION AS TO WHAT DEGREE OF PROGRESS ON TALKS ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM HE THOUGHT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INDUCE KUWAIT TO RESCIND OIL EMBARGO AND PUT US-KUWAITI RELATIONS BACK ON BETTER FOOTING. HOWEVER, RASHID SAID, NO MATTER HOW "DARK" CONFIDENTIAL

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US-ARAB REALTIONS BECAME, KUWAITIS KNEW THEY COULD NOT STOP WORLD AND GET OFF, AND THEREFORE IT MADE NO SENSE TO CUT COMMUNICATIONS WITH ANY SUCH IMPORTANT PART OF WORLD.

5. RASHID TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MY CALL TO REITERATE GOK DETERMINATION DO ITS UTMOST TO KEEP KUWAIT A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING AMERICANS.

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6. COMMENT: FROM RASHID'S COMMENTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS I HAVE TALKED TO SINCE OCT 6, I AM CONVINCED GOK AT NO TIME DURING CRISIS THUS FAR HAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US. NEVERTHELESS KUWAITIS ARE KEENLY AWARE DURING BEST OF TIMES OF THEIR VULNERABILITY AS MODERATES TO RADICAL AREA AND LOCAL FORCES, ESPECIALLY IRAQI AND PALESTINIAN; AND CRISIS HAS GREATLY INCREASED THEIR FEARS. IN THEIR CURRENT DEPRESSED MOOD, THEY SEE MAJOR GAINS AHEAD FOR USSR IN AREA AT EXPENSE OF US. (THEY DO NOT SEEM AWARE CHINESE MAY BE GREATEST LONG-TERM WINNER). HOW FAR OR HOW PERMANENTLY US BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN KUWAIT (TOTALING WELL OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS BEFORE OCT 6) HAVE ERODED REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
STOLTZFUS

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TAGS: PFOR, KU, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
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